

AGCCCCAAGGGC. In other preferred embodiments, a purified and isolated nucleic acid fragment comprising the rat sequence GAUAAUAUGGAUCUUUAAAGAUUCUUUUUGUAAGCCCCAAGGGC.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 64, 71, 78, and 81-83 as indicated below.

64. (Amended) The RNA of claim 60 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said third stem region are of the sequence NNCC, GCCC, or CC and said nucleotides forming said second side of said third stem region are of the sequence NNNN, GGGC, or GCGU.

71. (Amended) The RNA of claim 67 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said third stem region are of the sequence NNCC, GCCC, or CC and said nucleotides forming said second side of said third stem region are of the sequence NNNN, GGGC, or GCGU.

78. (Amended) The RNA of claim 74 wherein said nucleotides forming said first side of said third stem region are of the sequence NNCC, GCCC, or CC and said nucleotides forming said second side of said third stem region are of the sequence NNNN, GGGC, or GCGU.

81. (Amended twice) An RNA comprising the consensus sequence NNUNNNNNNNGAUCNUNNNNGAUNCUUUNUNNNANCCNNNNNNN (SEQ ID NO:20), NNUNNNNNNNGAUCNUNNNNGAUNCUUUNUNNNANCCNNNNNNN (SEQ ID NO:415) or NNUNNNNNNNGAUCNUNNNNGAUNCUUUNUNNNACCNNNNNNN (SEQ ID NO:416) and having a first double stranded region, a first internal loop region, a second double stranded region, and a first end loop region, a third double stranded region, and a second end loop region.

82. (Amended twice) An *in silico* representation of an RNA fragment that is conserved across at least two species comprising the sequence NNUNNNNNNNGAUCNUNNNNGAUNCUUUNUNNNANCCNNNNNNN (SEQ ID NO:20), NNUNNNNNNNGAUCNUNNNNGAUNCUU